

Remarks

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 7, 2003. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application and respectfully request favorable action in this case.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification as indicated above. These amendments correct clerical mistakes and do not add any new matter.

Amendment to the Drawings

Applicants have amended Figure 7 as indicated on the attached sheets. This amendment corrects a clerical mistake and does not add any new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that Claims 11, 25, and 29-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record without amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 11, 25, and 29-31 to expedite issuance of this Application. Pursuant to the Examiner's instructions, Applicants have rewritten these claims in independent form by incorporating the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of independent Claims 11, 25, and 29-31.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 54-57. These claims have not been amended and, thus, remain in condition for allowance.

Rejected Claims

In the Office Action mailed July 7, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-10, 12-24, 26-28, and 32-53. Although Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record without amendment, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-10, 12-24, 26-28, and 32-53 without prejudice or disclaimer, to expedite issuance of this Application. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuation application.

Information Disclosure Statement

In the Office Action mailed July 7, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 3, 2001 failed to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because it did not enclose the relevant documents. Applicants sent the cited references with the information disclosure statement. Nevertheless, because the Examiner did not receive them, Applicants re-submit copies of the Information Disclosure Statement, the PTO-1449 Form, and all of the references as previously filed for the Examiner's review and consideration.

It appears that the Examiner also did not consider the U.S. patent documents submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 27, 2001. Applicants are resubmitting those references with this information disclosure statement.

Conclusion

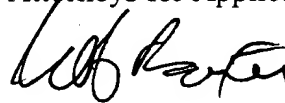
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeffery D. Baxter, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6791.

Applicants attach a check for \$43.00 to cover the cost of filing one additional independent claim. Applicants believe that no other fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 7